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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1908.

TAFT AND THE TARIFF.

Mr. Dailzell called at the White House on Sunday to assure Mr. Taft that the revision of the tariff was in excellent hands; the hands referred to being his, Dailzell's. The President-elect's remarks to the great mogul of protection were not made public, but he is "understood to have intimated" that he himself might have a little something to say in this connection a little later on. This, while many are encouraging, Mr. Taft's observations upon the tariff in his speech of acceptance were vague and non-committal. If we are to understand now that Dailzell is not his bean ideal or a revisionist, there is ground for rejoicing. But Mr. Taft's brief stay in Washington brought out something much more substantially hopeful in connection with the remodeling of the Dingelby schedules. The next President openly and stoutly urged the consumers of the country to take steps to make their views and desires known to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which is now conducting preliminary hearings. This is the first time that any of the powers has suggested that mere consumers had any rights as regards the tariff, and the observation has the refreshing quality of originality.

In so far as Mr. Taft opposes standardization of the Cannon-Taft-Dailzell brand and holds that tariff revision is designed for the common good and not merely for "the interests affected" he will command the entire approbation of Democrats. But to make the issue hinge on concerted pressure and manipulation by consumers, intimating that if they fail to secure adequate representation while the schedules were under discussion they could blame only themselves, is going rather far. It is easy for the trusts to maintain their lobbies before Ways and Means Committees or any other bodies, because they are organized. Now and then there may be an association of "partial consumers," like the National Manufacturers' Association, which buys partly manufactured material and turns it into finished products; but these are exceedingly rare. The average consumer is no more in position to send a special representative to Washington to plead for his pleasure than he is to take a pleasure trip around the world. And why should such special representation be necessary? One association, indeed, the consumer enjoys with his fellow consumer; that is the association of party, which, where it is successful, sends Congressmen to Washington to represent it. Are not the unorganized consumers of the country sufficiently numerous for even a Republican Congress to consider their interests without repeated proddings and petitions?

HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN HELP THE FARMERS.

Mr. Roosevelt informs Chairman Bailey of the Country Life Commission, that the purpose of his commission is to ascertain "what, if anything, the farmers can do to help themselves, and how the government can help them." No doubt the farmers are doing things to help themselves as intelligently and effectively as are the lawyers, merchants or any other classes of society. As to how the government can help them, it is not necessary to stir from the White House to reach important suggestions for a practical start in this direction. Let the government make a horizontal cut in import duties which will enable the farmer to buy his clothes and implements, his food and his furnishings, at a fair price, a price not artificially inflated to assist the dividends of a few well-bettered manufacturers and other interests. Let the government establish a parcels post system which will enable the farmer to get his purchases from the city shops to the farm house at a low rate, a rate very different from the prohibitive tariff maintained for the benefit of the express monopoly. When these two things have been done the government will be astonished to see how much "the general economic, social, educational and sanitary conditions" surrounding the farmer will be improved. The amelioration will be so great, we venture to say, that it will be some time before he is found asking any further help from a solicitous government.

WHEN ROOSEVELT PILORIED ROOT.

The New York World's argument against Theodore Roosevelt's appointment of Elihu Root to the United States Senate is unanswerable. It is a perfect argument, because it rests not upon conjecture or private opinion, but upon the record.

It happens that Mr. Roosevelt has fully and ably drawn the picture of the over-clever legal assistant of the frenzied captain of flunkey. These vigorous utterances of "World" now recall. Addressing the Harvard Alumni, the President spoke forcibly of the

Rhymes for To-Day.

COGNOMINAL POETRY: OR, ART MADE EASY.
While strolling near the park-way,
I came upon Jim Harkway,
Who stood with Molly Markway.
In earnest conversation,
And just as I addressed him,
He drew Miss Queniam,
With Rex and Reggie Westham,
Reverend to the station.

We stood awhile there chatting,
O'er poor young Percy Harting,
Whose love for Bessie Bunting,
Was then just getting famous;
We talked next of the Turners,
And I think of the Werners,
And some of Mrs. Kerners,
And her young nephew Shamus.

Well, then we walked on Main Street,
And turned off into Payne Street,
And on to South Duane Street,
Where grandpa used to curse.
And the I. M. of dear Molly,
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Also the happy Hindu pays in taxes \$2 per capita, about one-third of his annual earnings, to the support of a foreign government. Here is tinner enough, and for more than half a century the missionaries and school teachers have been applying sparks.

Some day the pile will ignite—if it has not already done so—and the world will wonder at the conflagration; for whether in Tokio, Peking, Manila or Timor, the unchangeable desire to realize national consciousness and national freedom holds true.

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